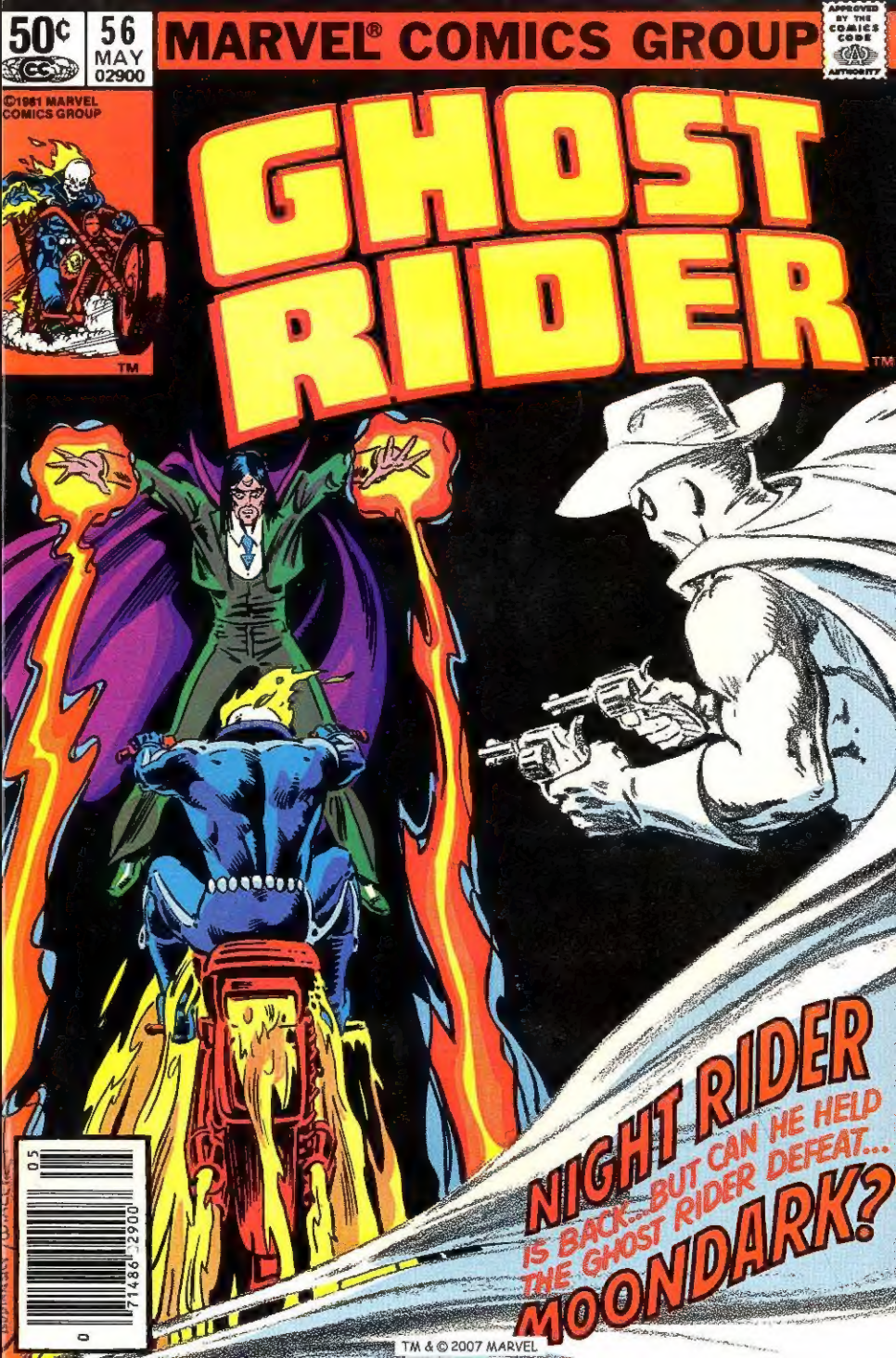
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THE GHOST RIDER DEFEAT...
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BLAST HIM--!
SIR! WHAT IN HEAVEN'S NAME--?
20-30
WHOCK
UH, SORRY, NURSE! I'VE GOT A SICK FRIEND IN THIS PLACE! I GUESS I'M JUST A LITTLE UPSET ABOUT HIM.
ROOM 20-30
THAT'S RIGHT, BLAZE! PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER!
PUNCHING HOLES IN WALLS ISN'T GOING TO MAKE THINGS ANY BETTER!
BESIDES, IT'S HARD ENOUGH STAYING ALIVE IN THE DAREDEVIL BUSINESS WITH BOTH HANDS FUNCTIONING!
LAS VEGAS MEDICAL CENTER
HEY, ARNIE! LOOK OVER THERE.
WHERE?
OVER THERE! THAT'S JOHNNY BLAZE, THE HOTSHOT CYCLE JOCKEY!
MAN, I ONLY WISH I WAS IN THAT GUY'S SHOES! MONEY, WOMEN, FAME! HE'S GOT IT ALL!
GOT IT ALL! HA! THAT'S A LAUGH!
LAS VEGAS MEDICAL CENTER
2

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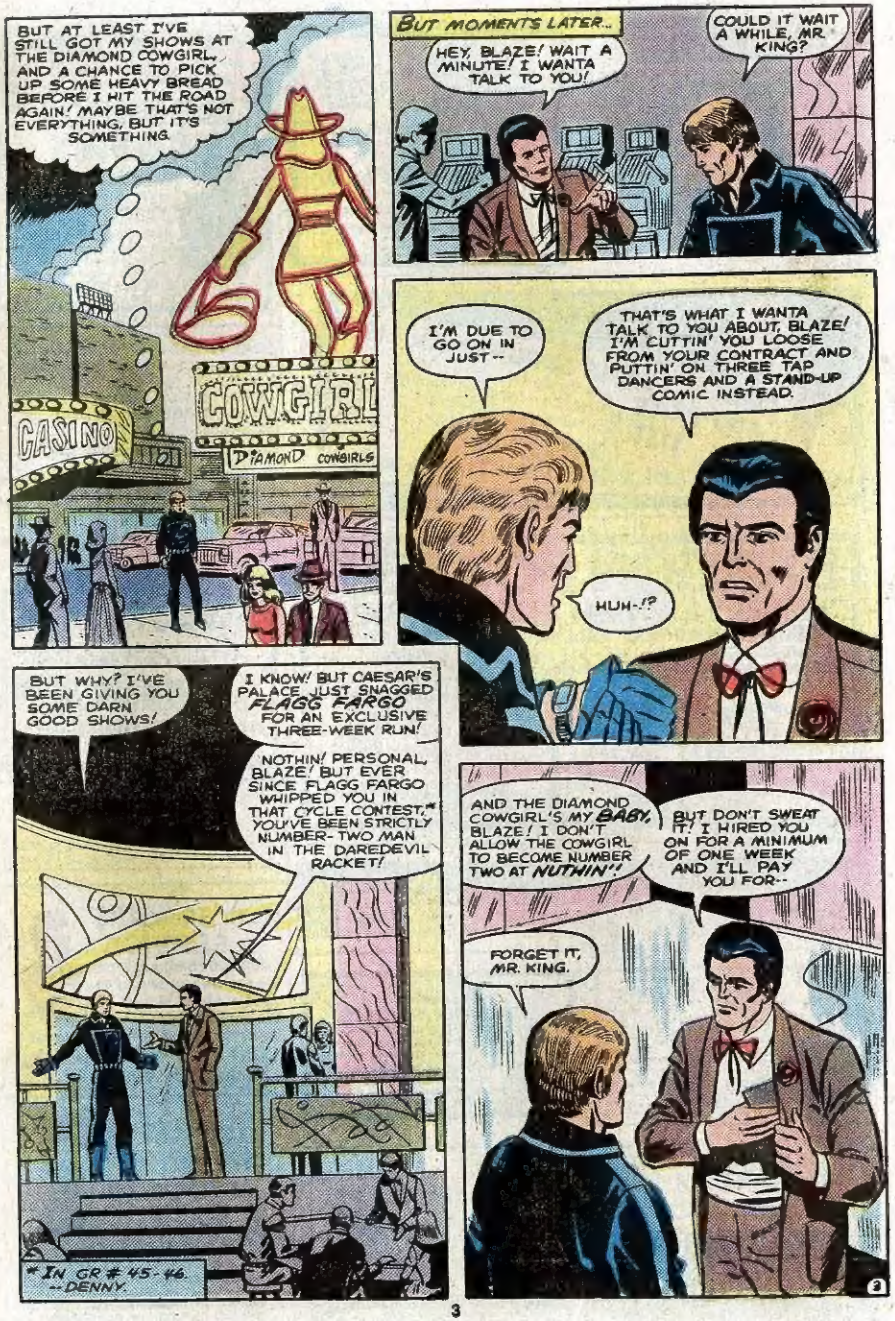
BUT AT LEAST I'VE STILL GOT MY SHOWS AT THE DIAMOND COWGIRL, AND A CHANCE TO PICK UP SOME HEAVY BREAD BEFORE I HIT THE ROAD AGAIN! MAYBE THAT'S NOT EVERYTHING, BUT IT'S SOMETHING.
COWGIRL
CASINO
DIAMOND COWGIRLS
BUT MOMENTS LATER..
HEY, BLAZE! WAIT A MINUTE! I WANTA TALK TO YOU!
COULD IT WAIT A WHILE, MR. KING?
I'M DUE TO GO ON IN JUST--
THAT'S WHAT I WANTA TALK TO YOU ABOUT, BLAZE! I'M CUTTIN' YOU LOOSE FROM YOUR CONTRACT, AND PUTTIN' ON THREE TAP DANCERS AND A STAND-UP COMIC INSTEAD.
HUH-!?
BUT WHY? I'VE BEEN GIVING YOU SOME DARN GOOD SHOWS!
I KNOW! BUT CAESAR'S PALACE JUST SNAGGED FLAGG FARGO FOR AN EXCLUSIVE THREE-WEEK RUN!
NOTHIN' PERSONAL, BLAZE! BUT EVER SINCE FLAGG FARGO WHIPPED YOU IN THAT CYCLE CONTEST,* YOU'VE BEEN STRICTLY NUMBER-TWO MAN IN THE DAREDEVIL RACKET!
* IN GR # 45-46. --DENNY.
AND THE DIAMOND COWGIRL'S MY BABY, BLAZE! I DON'T ALLOW THE COWGIRL TO BECOME NUMBER TWO AT NUTHIN'!!
BUT DON'T SWEAT IT! I HIRED YOU ON FOR A MINIMUM OF ONE WEEK AND I'LL PAY YOU FOR--
FORGET IT, MR. KING.

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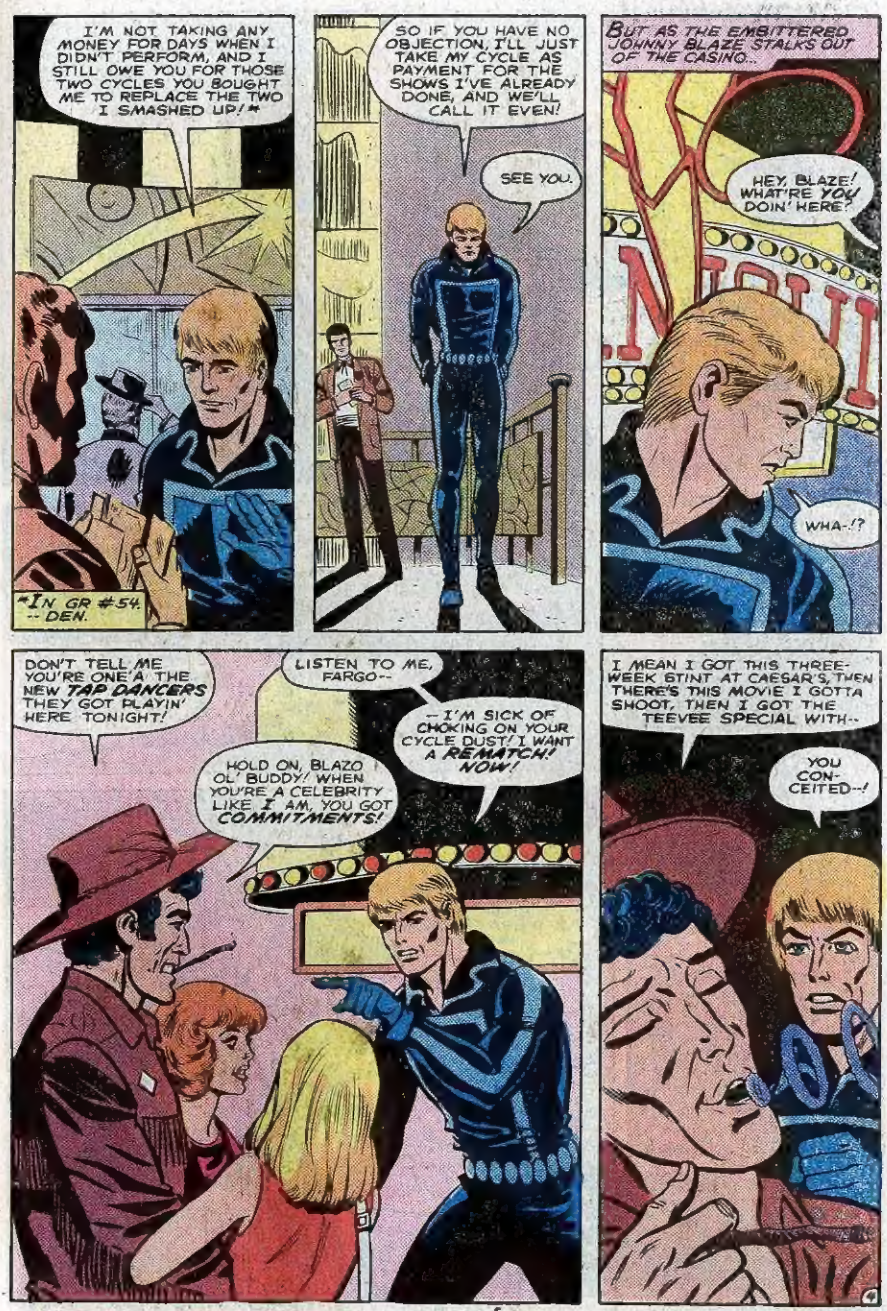
I'M NOT TAKING ANY MONEY FOR DAYS WHEN I DIDN'T PERFORM, AND I STILL OWE YOU FOR THOSE TWO CYCLES YOU BOUGHT ME TO REPLACE THE TWO I SMASHED UP!*
*IN GR #54 -- DEN.
SO IF YOU HAVE NO OBJECTION, I'LL JUST TAKE MY CYCLE AS PAYMENT FOR THE SHOWS I'VE ALREADY DONE, AND WE'LL CALL IT EVEN!
SEE YOU.
BUT AS THE EMBITTERED JOHNNY BLAZE STALKS OUT OF THE CASINO...
HEY, BLAZE! WHAT'RE YOU DOIN' HERE?
WHA-!?
DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE ONE A THE NEW TAP DANCERS THEY GOT PLAYIN' HERE TONIGHT!
HOLD ON, BLAZO OL' BUDDY! WHEN YOU'RE A CELEBRITY LIKE I AM, YOU GOT COMMITMENTS!
LISTEN TO ME, FARGO--
-- I'M SICK OF CHOKING ON YOUR CYCLE DUST! I WANT A REMATCH! NOW!
I MEAN I GOT THIS THREE-WEEK STINT AT CAESAR'S, THEN THERE'S THIS MOVIE I GOTTA SHOOT, THEN I GOT THE TEEVEE SPECIAL WITH--
YOU CON-CEITED--!

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BUT I AIN'T A BAD-HEARTED GUY, BLAZE! I FIGURE I COULD PENCIL YOU IN FOR A REMATCH IN, SAY, TWO MONTHS MAYBE--
OKAY, FARGO! TWO MONTHS IT IS!
AND YOU BETTER USE THOSE TWO MONTHS TO DO SOME HEAVY PRACTICING, MISTER BIG-SHOT CELEBRITY! 'CAUSE WHEN I GET YOU INTO THAT ARENA, FARGO, I'M GONNA EAT YOU UP!
A SHORT WHILE LATER, AS DARKNESS FALLS...
WHEW! TALK ABOUT ROTTEN LUCK! EVERYTHING THAT COULD'VE GONE WRONG DURING THAT STINT IN VEGAS DID GO WRONG! I LOST MY GIRL, MY JOB...!
I GUESS I SHOULD BE THANKFUL I DIDN'T--
SQWARRRK!
GOOD GRIEF! WHAT'S THAT?
I-I DON'T BELIEVE THIS! I JUST DO NOT BELIEVE IT!
VULTURES OF SOME KIND! GIGANTIC VULTURES, BATHED IN SOME SORT OF WEIRD SHIMMERING GLOW!
AND THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT! THEY'RE AFTER ME--!!
5

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MEANWHILE, OUT IN THE NEVADA DESERT, NOT TOO MANY MILES AWAY, AN EAGER YOUNG ARCHAEOLOGIST NAMED HAMILTON SLADE MAKES HIS WAY THROUGH A MAZE OF LONG-FORGOTTEN INDIAN BURIAL MOUNDS HIDDEN BETWEEN TOWERING LIMESTONE CLIFFS...
I COULD END UP BREAKING MY NECK WALKING AROUND HERE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT LIKE THIS!
BUT I'M SO EXCITED ABOUT ACTUALLY FINDING THIS PLACE THAT I JUST COULDN'T FORCE MYSELF TO WAIT TILL MORNING TO EXPLORE IT!
ACCORDING TO THAT WAMPUM-BELT INSCRIPTION I DECIPHERED, THIS COMANCHE BURIAL GROUND MARKS THE FINAL RESTING PLACE OF MY GREAT-GREAT GRANDFATHER LINCOLN SLADE, WHO HELPED SETTLE THIS REGION, MORE THAN A HUNDRED YEARS AGO!
IT WAS FLAMING STAR, A COMANCHE MEDICINE MAN, WHO BESTOWED UPON LINCOLN'S BROTHER CARTER THE UNIQUE OUTFIT WHICH HE WOULD USE TO HELP BRING PEACE AND JUSTICE TO THE UNTAMED FRONTIER!
WHEN CARTER WAS SHOT DOWN BY OUTLAWS, MY GREAT-GREAT GRANDFATHER PICKED UP HIS MANTLE AND CARRIED ON TILL HIS DEATH DECADES LATER. WHEN HE DIED, THE COMANCHES BROUGHT HIM HERE TO THIS PLACE OF HONOR SO THAT HIS SOUL MIGHT BE AT PEACE WITH THE GREAT SPIRIT.
OF COURSE, IT WASN'T REALLY LINCOLN SLADE THE COMANCHES SOUGHT TO HONOR HERE, BUT HIS HEROIC ALTER EGO, THE REDMEN CALLED HIM HE WHO RIDES THE NIGHT WINDS!
OTHERS CALLED HIM THE NIGHT RIDER!
6

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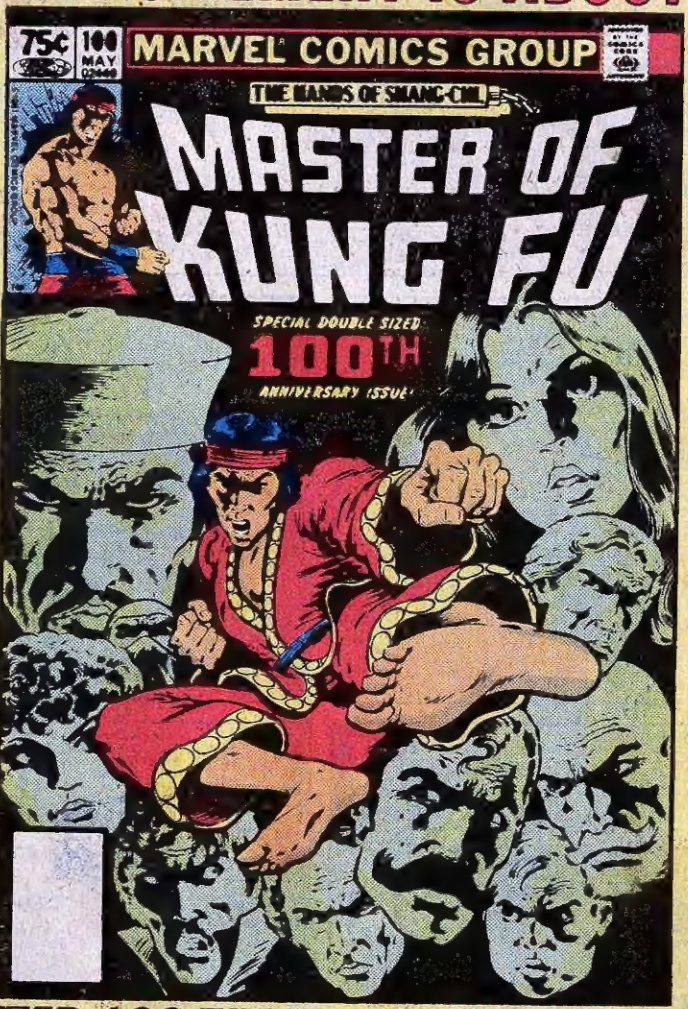
SEE FOR YOURSELF WHAT ALL THE EXCITEMENT IS ABOUT...



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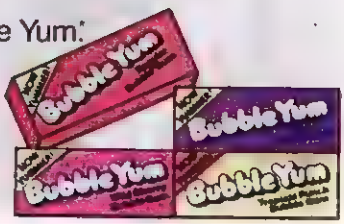

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WHILE AT THIS VERY MOMENT
HOLY TOLEDO! THESE BIRDS! THEY'RE TRYING TO KILL ME!
SQWARRRRK!
SQWARRKKK!
AND THEY'LL DO IT, TOO--
--UNLESS I CAN BLOCK OUT THAT RACKET THEY'RE MAKING--
--AND CONCENTRATE... CONCENTRATE
HARD ENOUGH TO SUMMON FORTH THE DEMON WITHIN ME!
FREE! I'M FREE AT LAST! ONCE AGAIN THE GHOST RIDER WALKS THE EARTH!
BACK, VILE FEATHERED THINGS! BACK! LEST I OBLITERATE YOU ALL WITH THE FIRES OF HELL!
SQWARRRRK!
BUT
UNNGHH! THEIR BEAKS ARE RAZOR-SHARP AND TEARING AT THE VERY ESSENCE OF MY NETHER-WORLDLY BEING!
SQWARRK!
AND ALTHOUGH MY HELLFIRE SETS THEM AFLAME, IT IS POWERLESS TO DESTROY THEM!

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SKWADOOM!
IF I AM TO SURVIVE, I MUST DIG MY AWESOME STRENGTH AGAINST THEM--
--AND ONE BY ONE, I MUST ANNIHILATE THEM ALL--!!
I HAVE DESTROYED THE BRAVEST AMONG THEM, AND SO THEY FLEE!
YET THESE BIRD-THINGS DID NOT ATTACK JOHNNY BLAZE OF THEIR OWN VOLITION! THEY DID IT AT THE BEHEST OF SOMEONE ELSE--
--AT THE BEHEST OF WHATEVER MASTER OF EVIL SUMMONED THEM THROUGH HIS DARK MAGIC FROM THEIR WORLD TO THIS!
AND SO I WILL FOLLOW THE BIRD-THINGS--
--AND BEFORE THE MOON IS
REVENGE!

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SOON
THERE THEY GO-- THROUGH THAT HOLE AT THE BASE OF THAT CLIFF!
I THOUGHT SO! IT IS A TUNNEL, PROBABLY LEADING TO A SUBTERRANEAN CAVERN!
INDEED MOMENTS LATER
I WAS RIGHT! NOW--
OH, JOHNNY! THANK HEAVENS! THANK HEAVENS YOU'VE COME!
YOU--!!
MEANWHILE, AT THE COMANCHE BURIAL GROUND, YOUNG HAMILTON SLADE HAS MADE AN INTRIGUING DISCOVERY
THAT BURIAL JAR OVER NEAR THE SIDE OF THAT MOUND!
SOME PLAINS TRIBES USED TO PLACE THEIR DEAD IN HUGE JARS LIKE THAT ONE AND BURY THEM UPRIGHT BENEATH THE GROUND!
BUT THAT JAR'S NOT BURIED

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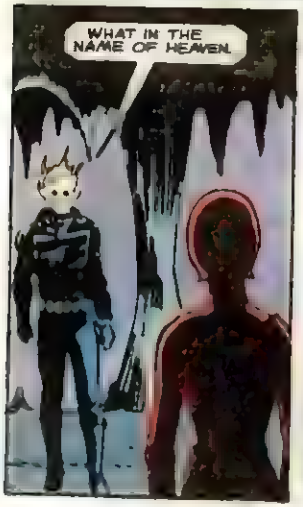
--AND THERE'S A WEIRD GLOW OF SOME KIND COMING FROM--
GOOD HEAVENS! I DON'T BELIEVE IT! SOMETHING'S STARTING TO TO FLOAT OUT OF THAT JAR!
IT'S A COSTUME OF SOME KIND! AND IT'S JUST FLOATING, HOVERING IN--
WAIT A MINUTE! I KNOW THAT COSTUME! IT WAS WORN BY THE NIGHT RIDER OVER A CENTURY AGO!
TORN BETWEEN SCIENTIFIC CURIOSITY AND FEAR, THE YOUNG ARCHAEOLOGIST EDGES SLOWLY TOWARD THE COMANCHE BURIAL JAR AND THE GHOSTLY REGALIA SHIMMERING ABOVE IT
AND THEN, SUDDENLY, THE SACRED BURIAL GROUND IS ENVELOPED BY A BLINDING BLAZE OF INCANDESCENT LIGHT AND IN THAT SOUL-NUMBING INSTANT
SOMETHING'S HAPPENING TO ME! SOMETHING STRANGE AND AND UNEARTHLY!
IT'S AS IF I WERE BEING ABSORBED. POSSESSED! AS IF MY MIND AND BODY WERE BEING TAKEN OVER BY A FORCE THAT'S NOT MY OWN!
AS IF, SOMEHOW, I WERE BEING TRANSFORMED INTO--
"..SOMEONE ELSE!"
TO ME, BANSHEE!
WHINNNN

AND IN THE NEXT INSTANT...
THERE IS NEED FOR US THIS NIGHT, MY FAITHFUL STEED! THERE IS NEED FOR HE WHO RIDES THE NIGHT WINDS!
WHHHHHHHH!

WHILE IN THE SUB TERRANEAN CAVERN MILES AWAY...
IT'S ME, JOHNNY! IT'S ME! GINA!
I'M SO GLAD YOU'VE COME HERE, JOHNNY! I LOVE YOU! I NEED YOU!
BY THE LORDS OF HADES!
GINA LANSTRE!



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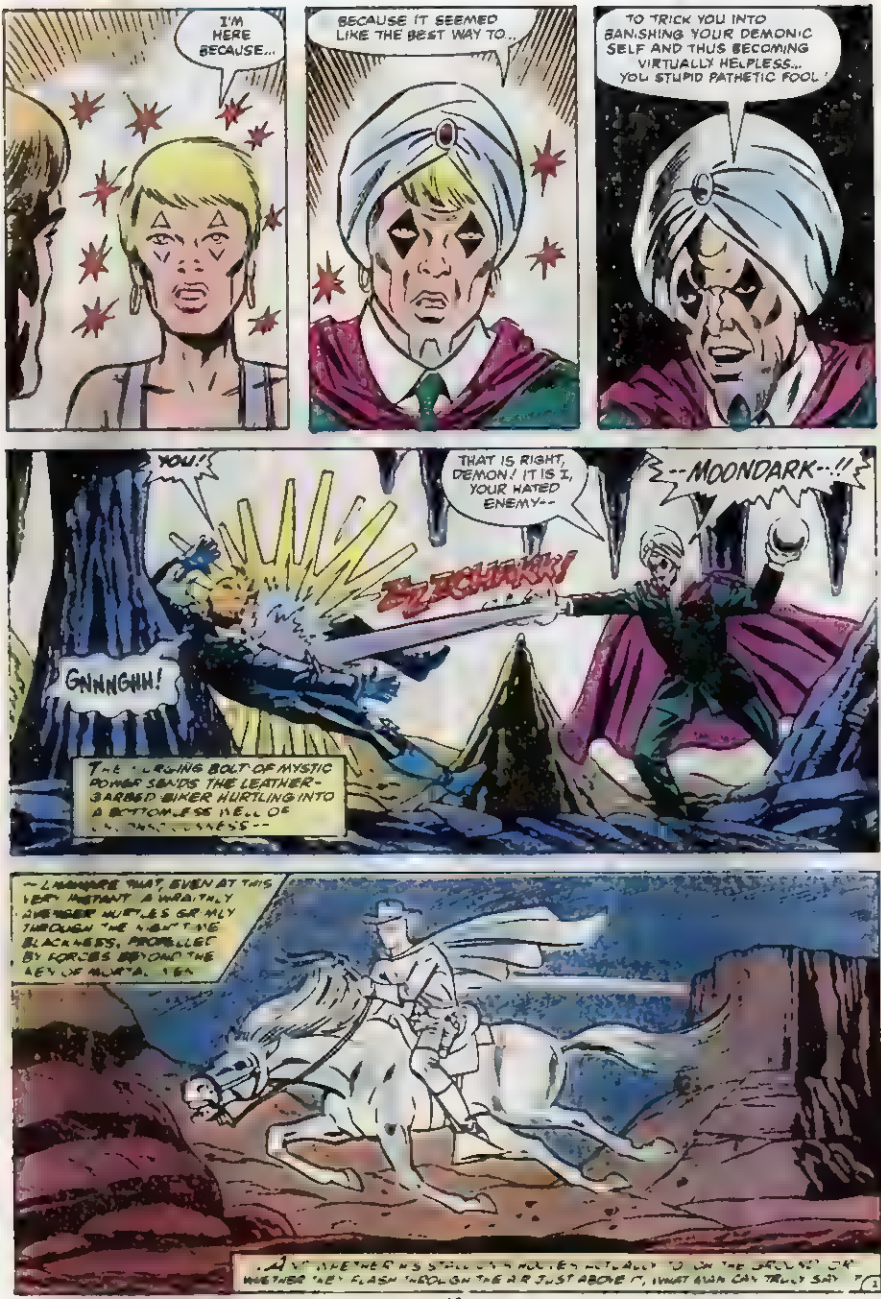
I'M HERE BECAUSE...
BECAUSE IT SEEMED LIKE THE BEST WAY TO...
TO TRICK YOU INTO BANISHING YOUR DEMONIC SELF AND THUS BECOMING VIRTUALLY HELPLESS... YOU STUPID PATHETIC FOOL!
YOU!
THAT IS RIGHT, DEMON! IT IS I, YOUR HATED ENEMY--
--MOONDARK--!!
SLSCHAKK!
GNNNGHH!
THE LURCHING BOLT OF MYSTIC POWER SENDS THE LEATHER-CLAD BIKER HURTLING INTO A BOTTOMLESS WELL OF UNCONSCIOUSNESS--
--I MENTION THAT, EVEN AT THIS VERY INSTANT A WRAITHLY AVENGER HURTLES GRIMLY THROUGH THE NIGHT TIME BLACKNESS, PROPELLED BY FORCES BEYOND THE KEN OF MORTAL MEN
AT WHETHER HE'S STILL ON A HORSE'S BACK, OR WHETHER HE'S FLASH THROUGH THE AIR JUST ABOVE IT, WHAT MAN CAN TRULY SAY?

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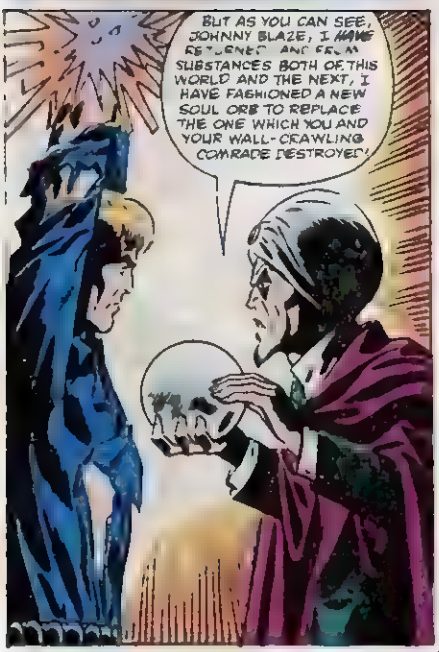
WHILE IN MOONDARK'S SWEEP
WHAT TH--? I'M BOUND BY SOME SORT OF ENERGY! I--I CAN'T BREAK LOOSE!
STRUGGLING SHALL AVAIL YOU NAUGHT! AS LONG AS MY BANDS OF ECTOPLASMIC POWER HOLD YOU FAST, YOU WILL REMAIN HELPLESS, POWERLESS TO TRANSFORM YOURSELF INTO YOUR DEMONIC ALTER-EGO!

"NOT SO VERY LONG AGO, YOU WILL RECALL, I STOLE YOUR VERY SOUL FROM YOU WITH THE INTENTION OF USING IT TO RANSOM BACK MY OWN SOUL FROM THE DARK BEINGS WHO HAD TAKEN IT FROM ME..
"BUT SPIDER-MAN INTERVENED TO SAVE YOU, AND TOGETHER YOU DEFEATED ME, AND I WAS SENT SHRIEKING INTO A DARKSOME NETHERWORLD, NEVER TO RETURN...!*
* IN MARVEL TEAM-UP #91


BUT AS YOU CAN SEE, JOHNNY BLAZE, I HAVE RETRIEVED AND FROM SUBSTANCES BOTH OF THIS WORLD AND THE NEXT, I HAVE FASHIONED A NEW SOUL ORB TO REPLACE THE ONE WHICH YOU AND YOUR WALL-CRAWLING COMRADE DESTROYED!

YOUR SOUL IS OF SPECIAL VALUE TO ME, JOHNNY BLAZE! FOR YOU ARE A MAN POSSESSED BY A DEMON--
--AND ONLY A SOUL SUCH AS YOURS IS PRECIOUS ENOUGH TO RANSOME MY OWN SOUL BACK FROM THE FEARSOME BEINGS WHO NOW POSSESS IT!

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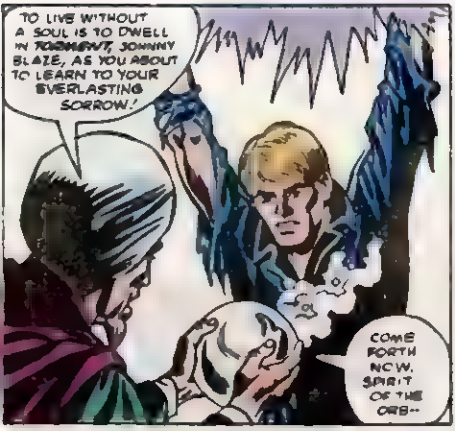
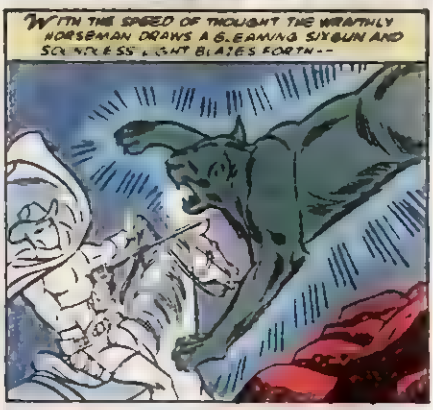
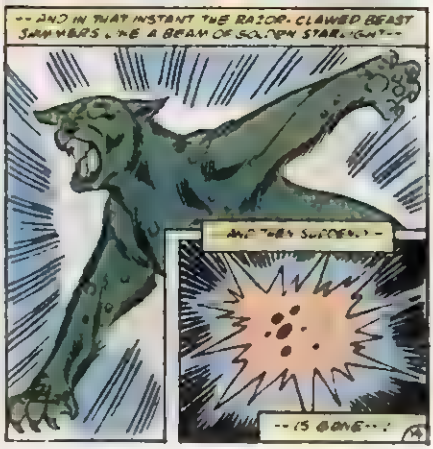

TO LIVE WITHOUT A SOUL IS TO DWELL IN TORMENT, JOHNNY BLAZE, AS YOU ABOUT TO LEARN TO YOUR EVERLASTING SORROW!
COME FORTH NOW, SPIRIT OF THE ORB--

" BUT WHAT CAN IT REALLY MATTER? WHOEVER IT IS, MY WHITE-FANGED FRIENDS WILL MAKE SHORT WORK OF HIM...!
GROWLWRR
OUR PRESENCE HERE IS KNOWN, BANSHEE!
BACK, MY FAITHFUL STEED! FOR BEFORE WE MEET THE MASTER OF EVIL WHO DWELLS HERE WE SHALL FIRST HAVE TO DEAL WITH THE INFERNAL PETS WHO GUARD HIS DOMAIN!





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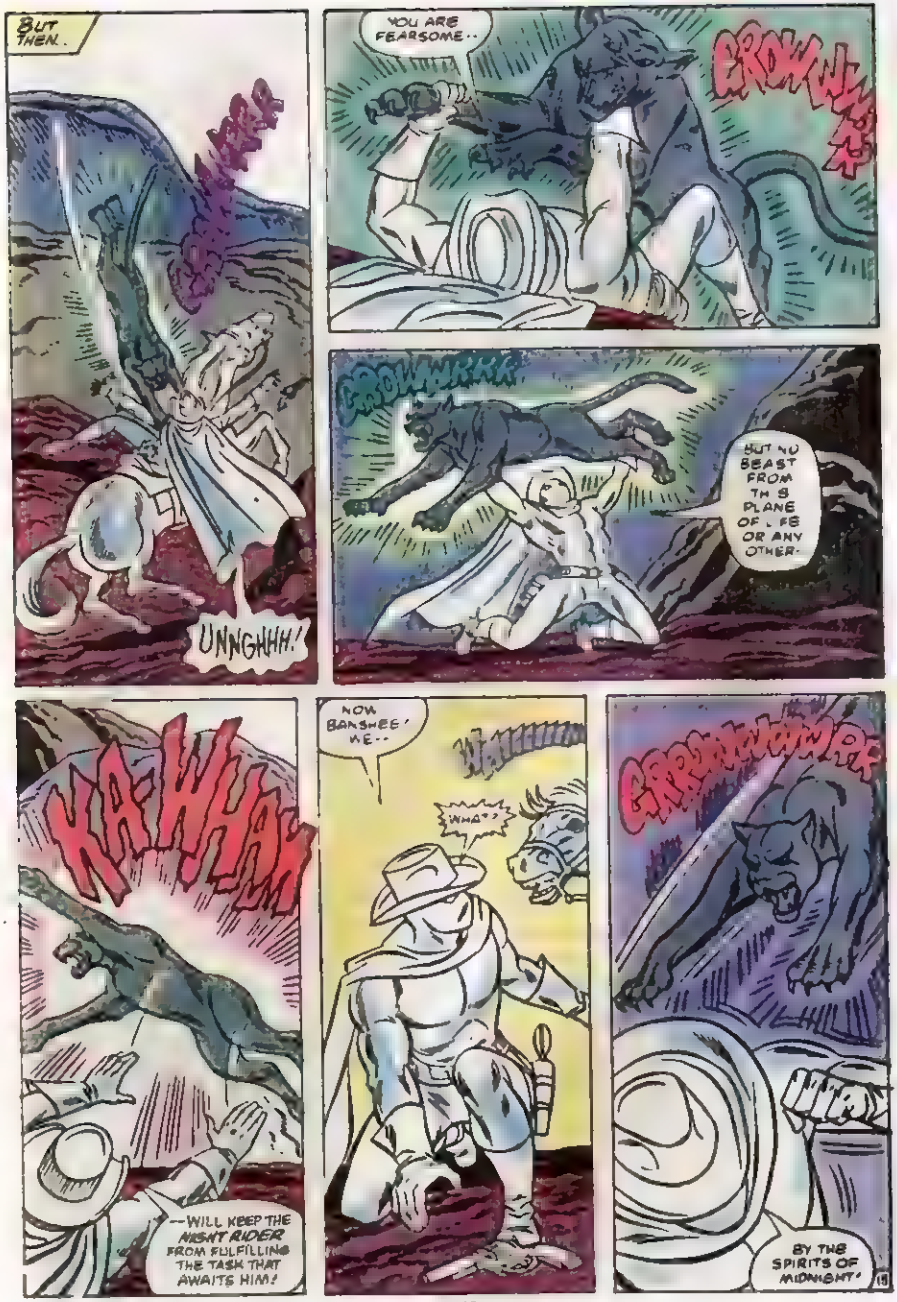

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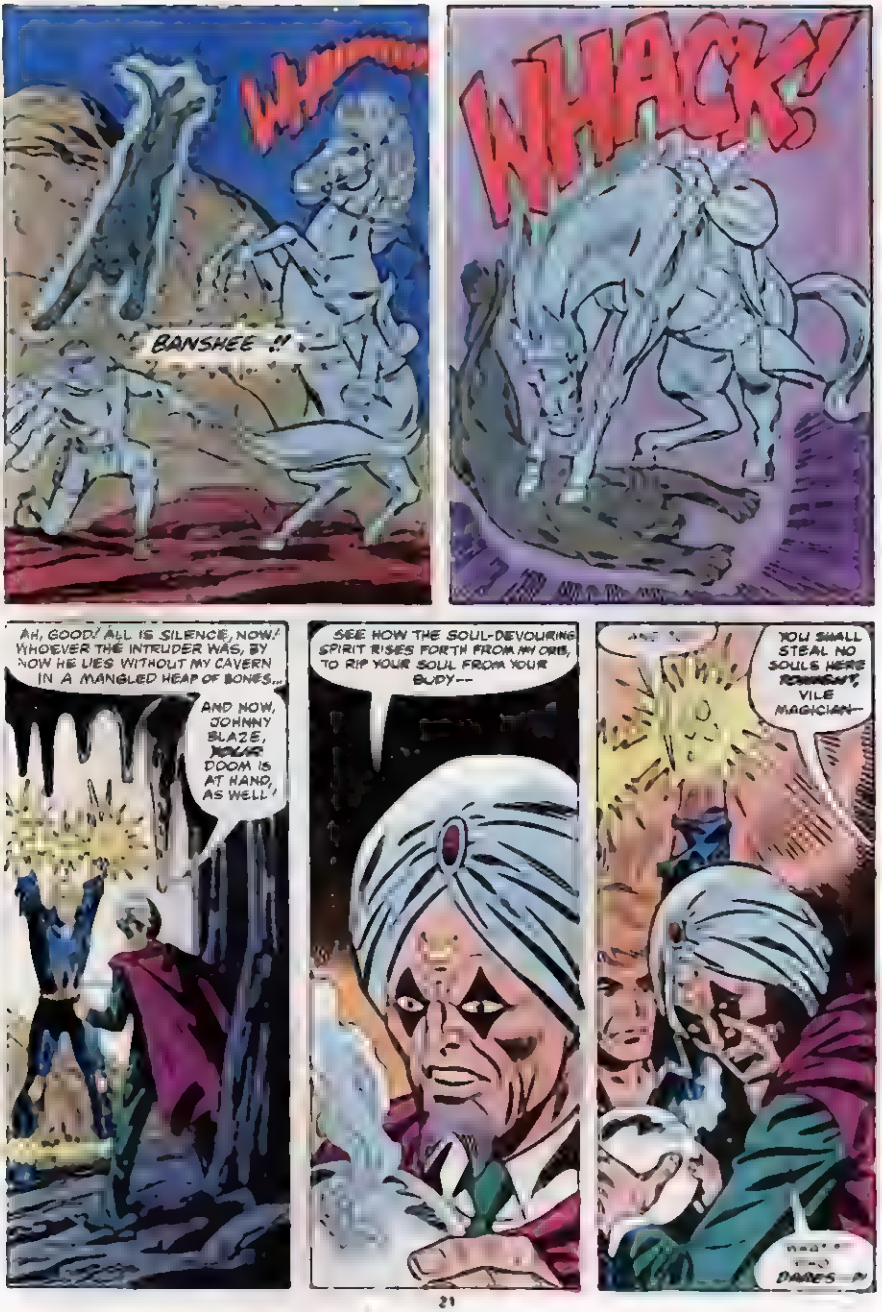
WHACK!
BANSHEE !!
WHACK!
AH, GOOD! ALL IS SILENCE, NOW! WHOEVER THE INTRUDER WAS, BY NOW HE LIES WITHOUT MY CAVERN IN A MANGLED HEAP OF BONES...
AND NOW, JOHNNY BLAZE, YOUR DOOM IS AT HAND, AS WELL!
SEE HOW THE SOUL-DEVOURING SPIRIT RISES FORTH FROM MY ORB, TO RIP YOUR SOUL FROM YOUR BODY--
YOU SHALL STEAL NO SOULS HERE TONIGHT, VILE MAGICIAN--
DAVES

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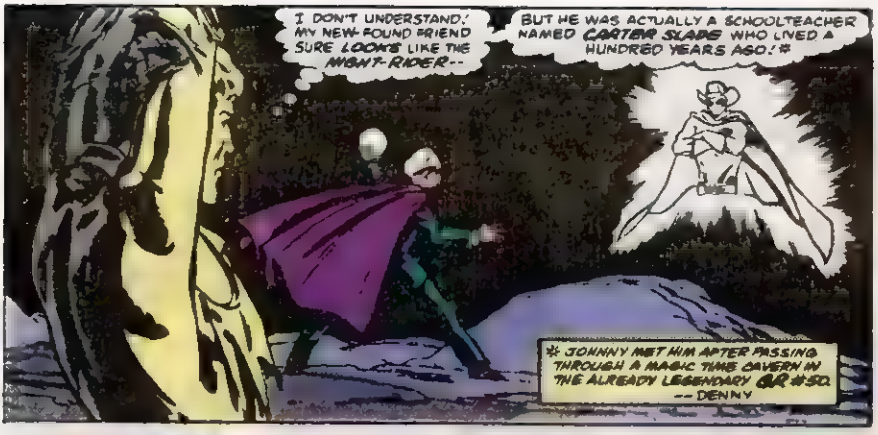
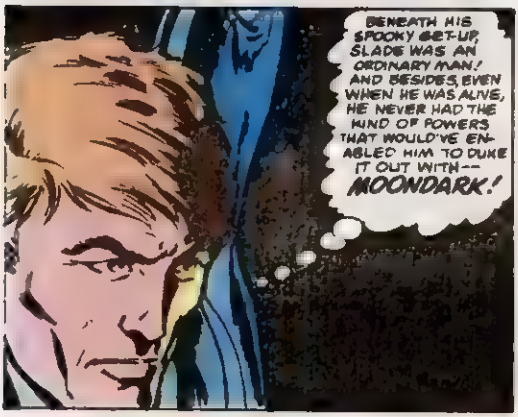
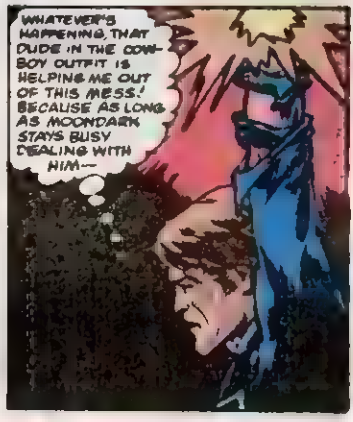
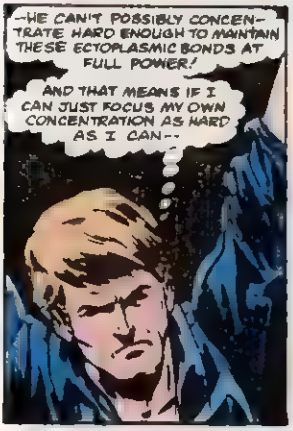
KRAASH!
NOT WHILE THE AVENGING SPIRIT OF THE NIGHT WIND STILL TREADS UPON THE EARTH--!!
THE LIGHTS! YOU'VE SHOT OUT THE LIGHTS!
IT--IT'S PITCH DARK IN HERE! WHERE IN THE DEVIL--?!
I AM HERE, MAGICIAN!
AND I AM HERE.
I AM EVERYWHERE THAT GOODNESS IS THREATENED BY THE HATEFUL AMBITIONS OF MALEVOLENT MEN..!
BRASH INTRUDER!
YOU CAN'T INTIMDATE ME WITH YOUR SIMPLE-MINDED PARLOR TRICKS!
I AM ONE WHO HAS JOURNEYED TO NETHERWORLDS WITHOUT NUMBER, WHO HAS TAUNTED DEMONS AND LIVED TO BOAST OF IT!
IN THESE HANDS RESIDE POWERS UNIMAGINED BY MORTAL MEN!
ZNGGH
AND WITH THESE POWERS, I WILL OBLITERATE YOU--I SWEAR IT!
ZZZ


I DON'T UNDERSTAND! MY NEW-FOUND FRIEND SURE LOOKS LIKE THE MIGHT-RIDER--
BUT HE WAS ACTUALLY A SCHOOLTEACHER NAMED CARTER SLADE WHO LIVED A HUNDRED YEARS AGO!*
* JOHNNY MET HIM AFTER PASSING THROUGH A MAGIC TIME CAVERN IN THE ALREADY LEGENDARY GR #50. -- DENNY


BENEATH HIS SPOOKY GET-UP, SLADE WAS AN ORDINARY MAN! AND BESIDES, EVEN WHEN HE WAS ALIVE, HE NEVER HAD THE KIND OF POWERS THAT WOULD'VE ENABLED HIM TO DUKE IT OUT WITH-- MOONDARK!


WHATEVER'S HAPPENING, THAT DUDE IN THE COWBOY OUTFIT IS HELPING ME OUT OF THIS MESS! BECAUSE AS LONG AS MOONDARK STAYS BUSY DEALING WITH HIM--


--HE CAN'T POSSIBLY CONCENTRATE HARD ENOUGH TO MAINTAIN THESE ECTOPLASMIC BONDS AT FULL POWER!
AND THAT MEANS IF I CAN JUST FOCUS MY OWN CONCENTRATION AS HARD AS I CAN--

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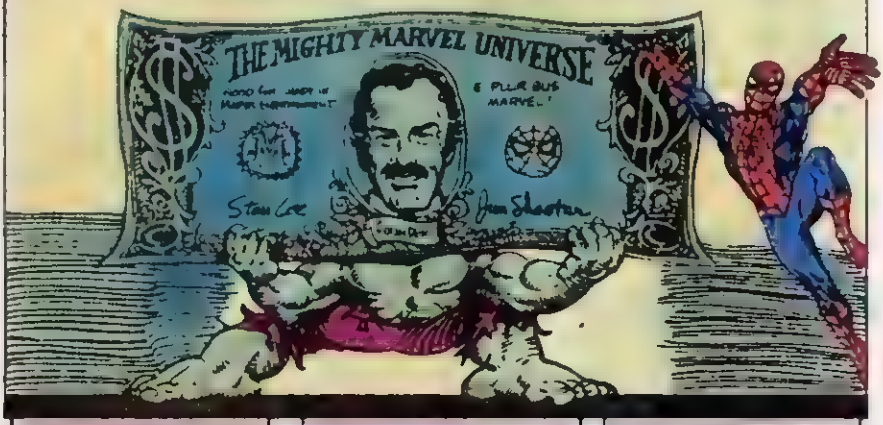
HEY! LOOK WHO WON SOME BIG BUCKS!

ANNOUNCING THE WINNERS OF THE MIGHTY MARVEL WIN-YOURSELF SOME-BIG-BUCKS CONTEST!



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Question No. 2: "WHO IS YOUR LEAST FAVORITE MARVEL CHARACTER, AND WHAT CAN WE DO TO IMPROVE HIM OR HER?" (Ages 11-14)

Question No. 3: "HOW SHOULD THE MARVEL UNIVERSE CHANGE TO FACE THE CHALLENGES OF THE EIGHTIES?" (Ages 15 and older)

FIRST PRIZE $2,500 CASH!
LISA KOTT, Age 9
Melissa, Texas
MY HERO

Hulk is mighty mean
When his anger rises he turns green
I think Hulk is incredibly neat
Especially when he stomps those feet

FIRST PRIZE $2 500 CASH!
HEAHN JAE CHO, Age 14
Akron Ohio

In all Marveldom, one falls in my disfavor. Sub-Mariner should learn to control his emotions and pride. Inasmuch as tantrums don't befit monarchs of Atlantis.

FIRST PRIZE $2 500 CASH!
ANDY BAUER, Age 19
Georgetown, Ind

Nurture the child in each of us. We all mature, change, take on new responsibilities and obtain greater knowledge, but do not let us lose our curiosity, open-mindedness and faith in others. Help us live naturally and spontaneously in today's civilized world. Let us continue to dream.

SECOND PRIZE $1 000 CASH!
DALE BREWSTER, Age 10
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THIRD PRIZE $500 CASH!
SCOTT FRANKOS, Age 9
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SECOND PRIZE $1 000 CASH!
LONNIE JUDD, Age 12
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THIRD PRIZE $500 CASH!
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Skokie, Il

SECOND PRIZE $1,000 CASH!
JAMES WOMACK, Age 30
Tucson, Az.

THIRD PRIZE $500 CASH!
DONALD VINCENT, Age 22
Holyoke, Mass.

Let's have a hearty chorus of Congratulations for the above named Big Buck winners and also for the

100 FOURTH PRIZE WINNERS of a copy of the ORIGINS OF MARVEL COMICS, autographed by Smilin' Stan himself!

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And to show our appreciation to all you dedicated Marvelites who cared enough to take the time to write us your heartfelt feelings about our comics — which, let's face it, are as much *yours* as ours — we're gonna print the name and hometown of *every single contest entrant!*

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When I came home and found my kids had [illegible] house I was so moved I began to cry. I never [illegible] about my smoking. Thanks to my kids' love a[illegible] —*Mrs. Phyllis Bocian, '86*

[illegible] money they sa[illegible]

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EVEN MY EVER-LOVIN' AUNT PETUNIA WON'T BELIEVE HOW MANY BLAMED SUPER HEROES AND VILLAINS THEY MANAGED TO SQUEEZE INTO MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE #75!
SHEESH! THERE'S THE SUPER ADAPTOID, BLASTAAR, ANNIHILUS AND A WHOLE MESS OF AVENGERS!
I WONDER IF THEY LEFT ANY ROOM FOR ME--THE BLUE-EYED STAR OF THE MAG!
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MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE
THING
AVENGERS

YOU BET WE DID! IT'S ALL ON SALE NOW IN A SPECIAL DOUBLE-SIZED 75¢ EDITION OF MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE #75 DON'T MISS IT!

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HA! YOUR CLEVER DISAPPEARING TRICKS SHALL DO YOU NO GOOD NOW, INTRUDER! IN A MOMENT--
CEASE YOUR PRATTLE, MOONDARK! FOR NOW I AM FREE--
--AND EAGER TO EXACT--
--VENGEANCE!
YOU! BUT HOW--?!
NO, NEVER MIND HOW! FOR SO LONG AS I POSSESS THE SOUL ORB--
--YOU CANNOT DEFEAT ME--!!
GLOAT WHILE YOU CAN, MOONDARK! FOR, IN A MOMENT YOU WILL BE WRITHING IN TORMENT--
--SCALDED TO YOUR VITALS BY THE SOUL-SEARING PAIN OF HELL-SPAWNED FIRE!
HA-HA! HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN SO SOON, DEMON, THAT IT IS FUTILE TO ATTEMPT TO DESTROY THE SOUL OF A MAN WHO HAS NO SOUL?
AND HAVE YOU SO SOON FORGOTTEN, MOONDARK, THAT WHILE MY COLD FIRE POSSESSES THE POWER TO SCALD THE SOUL--?
--MY EARTHLY FIRE HAS THE POWER TO SEAR THE FLESH!
GHAAAA!
THE ORB! I'VE DROPPED THE ORB!
19

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BUT I CAN STILL--
YOU CAN DO NOTHING, MOONDARK! NOTHING BUT STAND AND WITHER BEFORE MY WRATH!
NO! A WALL OF FIRE CUTTING ME OFF FROM THE SOUL ORB!
THE FLAMES! FORCING ME BACK--
MY SOUL IS ALREADY LOST! IF MY PHYSICAL BODY IS DESTROYED, I WILL HAVE LOST ALL HOPE!
YOU HAVE DEFEATED ME THIS TIME, DEMON! BUT I AM STILL MOONDARK, AND I STILL POSSESS POWERS BEYOND YOUR WILDEST IMAGININGS!
I DEPART NOW, DEMON, FOR THE WORLD BEYOND, WHERE MY BODY WILL BE RESTED, AND MY POWERS RENEWED!
MARK MY WORDS, DEMON! ONE DAY I WILL RETURN! AND WHEN THAT DAY COMES--
--I WILL DESTROY--
--YOU!
20

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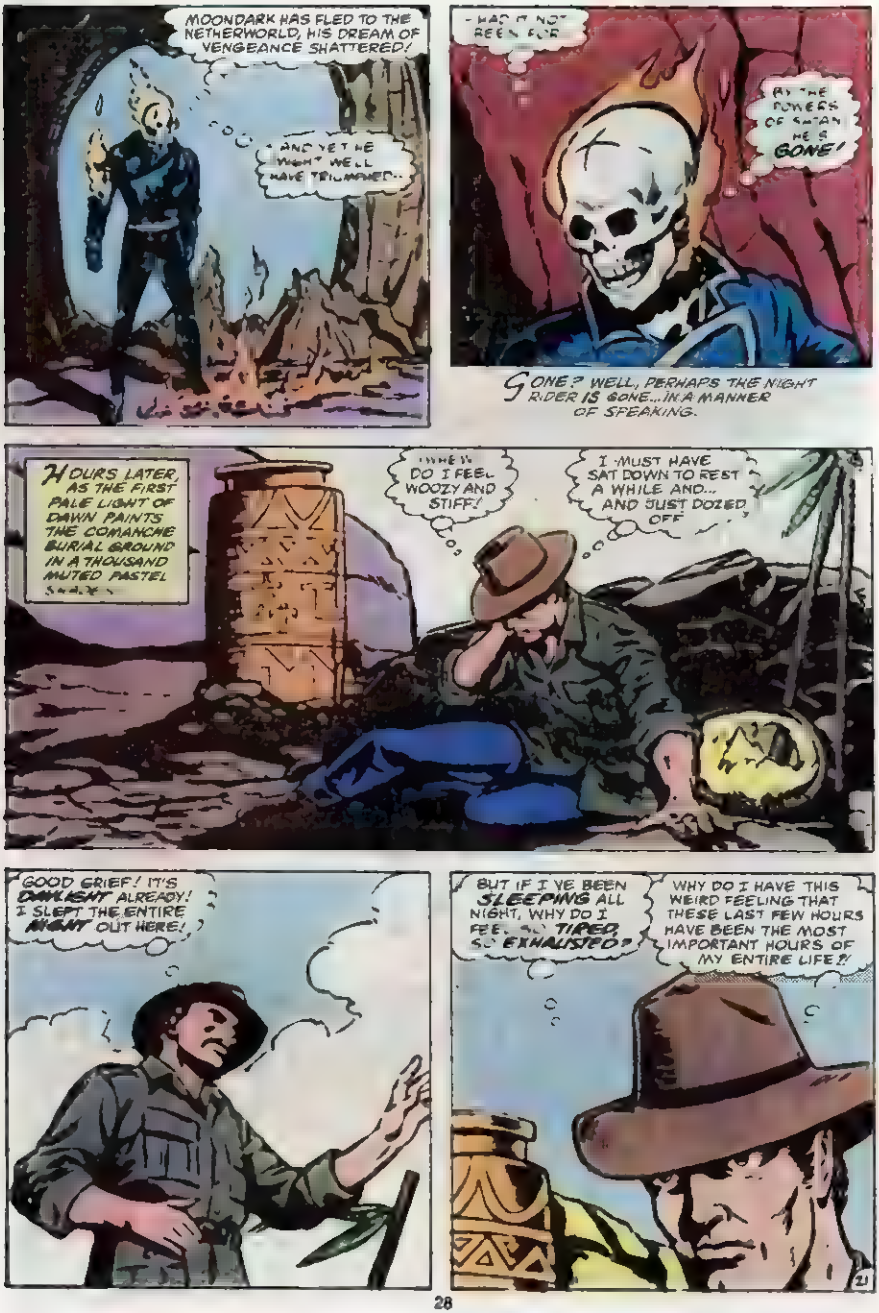
MOONDARK HAS FLED TO THE NETHERWORLD, HIS DREAM OF VENGEANCE SHATTERED!
AND YET HE MIGHT WELL HAVE TRIUMPHED...
- HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR
AT THE POWERS OF SATAN HE IS GONE!
GONE? WELL, PERHAPS THE NIGHT RIDER IS GONE... IN A MANNER OF SPEAKING.
HOURS LATER, AS THE FIRST PALE LIGHT OF DAWN PAINTS THE COMANCHE BURIAL GROUND IN A THOUSAND MUTED PASTEL SHADES...
WHEW! DO I FEEL WOOZY AND STIFF!
I MUST HAVE SAT DOWN TO REST A WHILE AND... AND JUST DOZED OFF
GOOD GRIEF! IT'S DAYLIGHT ALREADY! I SLEPT THE ENTIRE NIGHT OUT HERE!
BUT IF I'VE BEEN SLEEPING ALL NIGHT, WHY DO I FEEL SO TIRED, SO EXHAUSTED?
WHY DO I HAVE THIS WEIRD FEELING THAT THESE LAST FEW HOURS HAVE BEEN THE MOST IMPORTANT HOURS OF MY ENTIRE LIFE?!

TM & © 2007 MARVEL

THE THING in "EARTHLY DELIGHTS"

I'VE SEEN EVERYTHING BUT NE NE NEVER
THEY'RE AFTER US
OUR APPETITE FOR EARTHLY DELIGHTS WILL SOON BE SATISFIED!
PREPARE FOR DEFEAT!
NOT SO FAST BUB
YER NOT TAKING ANYBODY ANYWHERE
IF IT'S EARTHLY DELIGHTS YA WANT FER YER TRIP TAKE THESE HOSTESS FRUIT PIES. CHERRY FER ME APPLE FER YER FRIEND!
LATER AFTER THE THING HAS UNTIED THE SPACE
TASTE THE LIGHT, TENDER CRUST!
AND THE REAL FRUIT FILLING! THIS MUST BE WHAT EARTHLINGS CALL DELICIOUS!
I ALWAYS THOUGHT HOSTESS FRUIT PIES WERE OUTTA THIS WORLD! NOW THEY ARE!

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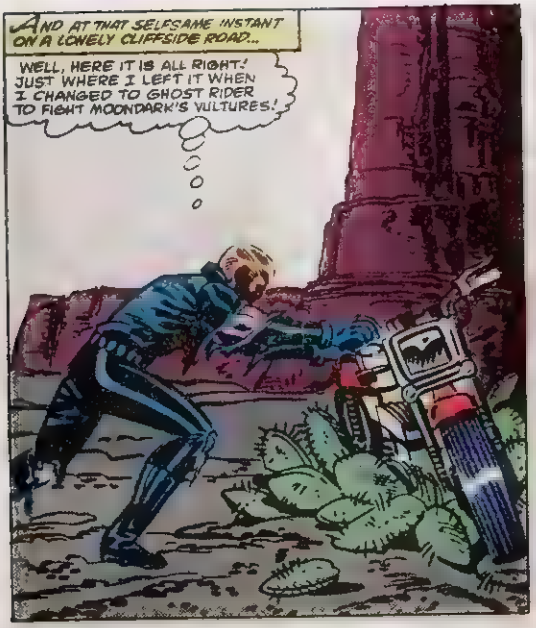
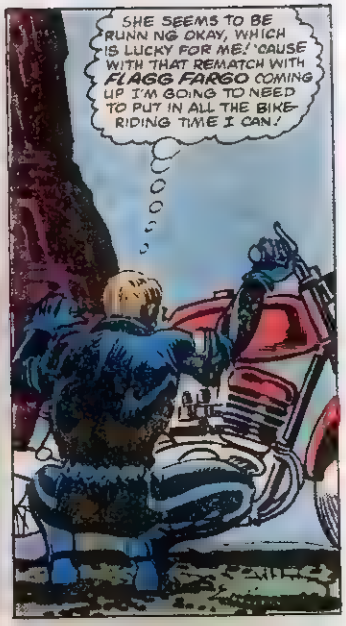
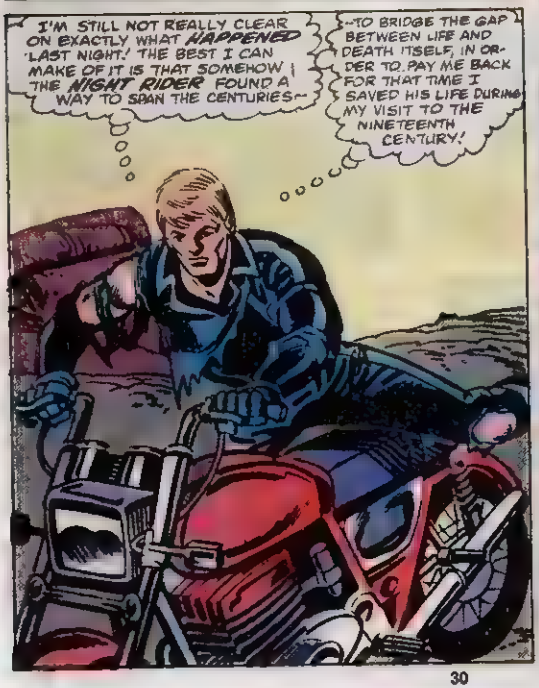
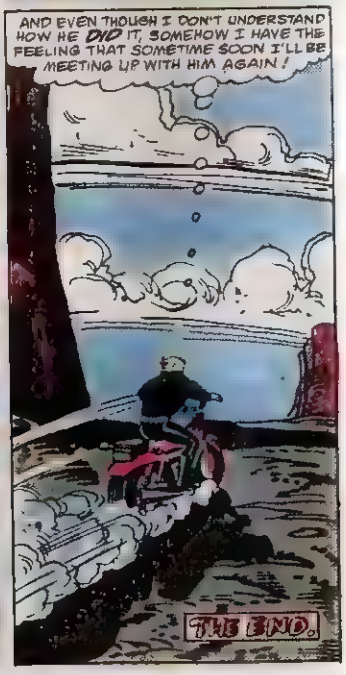

AND AT THAT SELFSAME INSTANT ON A LONELY CLIFFSIDE ROAD...
WELL, HERE IT IS ALL RIGHT! JUST WHERE I LEFT IT WHEN I CHANGED TO GHOST RIDER TO FIGHT MOONDARK'S VULTURES!


SHE SEEMS TO BE RUNN NG OKAY, WHICH IS LUCKY FOR ME! 'CAUSE WITH THAT REMATCH WITH FLAGG FARGO COMING UP I'M GOING TO NEED TO PUT IN ALL THE BIKE-RIDING TIME I CAN!


I'M STILL NOT REALLY CLEAR ON EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED 'LAST NIGHT.' THE BEST I CAN MAKE OF IT IS THAT SOMEHOW I THE NIGHT RIDER FOUND A WAY TO SPAN THE CENTURIES--
--TO BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH ITSELF, IN ORDER TO PAY ME BACK FOR THAT TIME I SAVED HIS LIFE DURING MY VISIT TO THE NINETEENTH CENTURY!


AND EVEN THOUGH I DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW HE DID IT, SOMEHOW I HAVE THE FEELING THAT SOMETIME SOON I'LL BE MEETING UP WITH HIM AGAIN!
THE END.

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GHOST WRITERS!

c/o MARVEL COMICS GROUP
575 Madison Avenue
New York, New York 10022

DENNIS O'NEIL
EDITOR
MARK GRUENWALD
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Dear Marvel:

GHOST RIDER #53 ("The She-Witch of Doom!") was super-great. Do continue having menaces of all kinds appear in this book, from super-villains to the supernatural.

What a fantastic character Tabicantra was. She would have made an ideal love interest for Johnny Blaze and The Ghost Rider. She was indeed very powerful. Any chance she could still be alive? If so, then please have her return to Johnny's life.

Wilson Rivera
Unit #9
605 Grand St.
Brooklyn, NY 11211

Dear Sirs:

I think that GHOST RIDER #50 ("Manitou's Anger... Tarantula's Sting!") was a very good story. Don Perlin did a very good art job. Of all the Ghost Rider stories I've read, I think GR #50 was the best. Michael Fleisher's script was really good. Keep up the good work. While I'm writing, I would like to know why you have so many ad pages in a lot of your comic books. I really think you have too many.

Jeff Johnson
Route 2
Newbern, TN 38059

Sometimes we think so too, Jeff, but the economics of comicbook publishing being what they are, we're afraid those ad pages — just like commercials on TV — are just going to have to continue being a part of our life.

Dear Sirs:

GHOST RIDER #50 was excellent. It really couldn't have been much better. I think The Night Rider has got to be one of the best people Ghost Rider has ever teamed up with. Since I've only been reading Ghost Rider since issue #25, I haven't been able to see GR team up with the Son of Satan. Why don't you have him guest star again?

Jaz Jones
11891 NW 7th St.
Plantation, FL 33325

We'll give the matter some serious thought, Jaz. But as long as you're such an avid Night Rider fan, how about dropping us a line and telling us how you feel about this issue's story?

Dear Marvel:

Ghost Rider is an instant success. Ghost Rider's bizarre powers, his eerie transformation from Johnny Blaze to GR, the materializing of his fiery cycle, his hellfire, and his invulnerability are all what go into making the character so distinctive and unique. The Night Rider is a neat characters, too. Keep him in Ghost Rider; he makes a great supporting character. I'd also like to see The Night Rider in MARVEL TEAM-UP. Spidey and The Night Rider would make a great team. One last thing: keep up the good work!

David Duncan
175 Nassau Drive
Springfield, MA 01029

Michael:

Rumor has it that Dino DeLaurentis is interested in producing a Ghost Rider film. Having read this rumor only in FAMOUS MONSTERS and nowhere else, I don't know how true it is. If it is true, well, what exactly is going on? As a Ghost Rider fan, I'm more than slightly curious.

Mike Sopp
438 W. 32
Erie, PA 16508

So are we, Mike. Right now, we're afraid we don't know any more than you do. But as further information comes through to us, we'll be sure to pass it along.

Dear Editor:

About GHOST RIDER #51 ("The Diesel of Doom!"): It's a masterpiece! The best mystery story in a long time! Imagine putting a ghostly trucker right in the path of the demonic Ghost Rider.

Clement Barstow was a very interesting character. In the first part of the story, he almost sends Johnny Blaze plunging down to his death; afterward, he gives Johnny a lift up to where the kidnappers are keeping Mitchell, and all the way there all kinds of eerie things keep happening: the truck is an antique model they don't make anymore; the radio plays only old-time music; the commercials are for products which don't exist anymore; and all kinds of other weird occult mainfestations let us know that something really bizarre is in store. The way Clem is there to pick up the evil bikers and then disappears with the coming of the dawn, and the story the gas station attendant tells about Clem's death and haunting, all really grabbed me right where I live. There should be more stories like this one in future issues of GHOST RIDER.

I'd like to thank Michael Fleisher for his magnificent job, and all the others who worked on this issue for their fine work.

Lise Lovelace
Montreal, Canada

Dear Editor:

I thoroughly enjoyed "The Diesel of Doom!" in GHOST RIDER #51. The story was well-written and the art was great, as usual. The best part of this Ghost Rider adventure was the part where another supernatural being — Clem Barstow — got vengeance on Johnny Blaze. What a switch! I also like the laughter of the Ghost Rider; it always creates a feeling of sheer terror.

I am extremely excited about the return of The Night Rider; his appearance was really an enjoyable surprise. After comparing this story with an original Night Rider (i.e., Ghost Rider) tale, I came away feeling that your new story captured perfectly the feeling of the stories from the 1950s. Please keep The Night Rider as a regular feature in this book. And thanks for listening.

Dave Tottum
R#1 Oakleaves Ln.
Mattawan, MI 49071

Thanks for your kind words about GR #51, Dave. We share your enthusiasm for The Night Rider, and an awful lot of our readers evidently do too, because — as this letter column amply demonstrates — even now, a full six months after we first brought back the Night Rider to help us celebrate our 50th issue, letters are still pouring in to Ghost Writers demanding his return.

Dear Michael, Don, and Denny:

Not since Conan chomped through a buzzard's neck in the classic "A Witch Shall Be Born" have I seen a greater display of pure toughness than the Ghost Rider's consumption of nitroglycerine in GR #51.

I'm continually amazed by Ghost Rider's demonic derring-do, and was absolutely flabbergasted by his run-in with that spectral trucker.

I love ghost stories, even though that tractor-trailer looked a little too modern to have been 30 years old.

Night Rider's appearance was made memorable by the art of the incomparable Carmine Infantino, who cut his teeth on one of the best western characters ever: Pow-Wow Smith.

Jeffrey Lowndes
809 Sunset St.
Scranton, PA 16509

Next issue: Johnny Blaze heads for a showdown with his arch-rival Flagg Fargo — and meets a menace not even the Ghost Rider can handle. We think it'll grab you.

— Michael Fleisher

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

☐ **MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE #75** — Double-sized 75th anniversary ish featuring the *Thing* and the *Avengers* vs. Annihilus, Blastaar, and the Super-Adaptoid in the Negative Zone!

☐ **SPIDER-WOMAN #36** — Guest-starring the *X-Men*!

☐ **STAR TREK #14** — "We Are Dying, Egypt, Dying!"

☐ **MARVEL SUPER HEROES #97** — (Reprinting Hulk #148) The Return of Jarella! Plus: The Inedible Bulk!

☐ **DAZZLER #3** — Dazz at the mercy of... *Doctor Doom*!

☐ **KA-ZAR #2** — Ka-Zar and Shanna must rescue the kidnapped Leanne!

☐ **DAREDEVIL #170** — *Now on sale monthly!* Bullseye vs. the Kingpin with DD caught in the middle!

☐ **SPIDEY SUPER STORIES #32** — Easy readin' super hero pleasure for discriminating younger readers.

☐ **CONAN #122** — "The City Where Time Stood Still"

☐ **ROM #16** — ROM vs. the *X-Men*. 'Nuff said!

☐ **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #216** — The most off-beat Spidey tale of the year: "Marathon!"

☐ **CAPTAIN AMERICA #257** — Cap vs. the *Hulk*!

☐ **MICRONAUTS #39** — Doc Samson sends the Micros into Rann's brain where they are ambushed by... Nightmare!

☐ **GHOST RIDER #56** — The vengeance of Moondark the Magician!

☐ **SAVAGE SHE-HULK #16** — Beware the Microwave!

☐ **THOR #387** — The terrifying, nightmare-powered Dream Demon! Plus: Loki!

☐ **MOON KNIGHT #7** — "The Moon Kings!"

☐ **INCREDIBLE HULK #259** — Or Greenskin and a Soviet super-team take on Russia's deadliest super villains!

☐ **AVENGERS #207** — He's called the Shadow Lord and to save the Earth, he must destroy the Avengers! Why?

☐ **MARVEL TEAM-UP #105** — *Hulk, Power Man* and *Iron Fist* — *together!*

☐ **IRON MAN #146** — The way-out weaponry of... Blacklash!

☐ **MARVEL TALES #127** — (Reprints Spider-Man #150) Spidey attacked by all his fiercest foes at once! Plus: The Inhumans.

☐ **X-MEN #145** — The riotous return of the new X-Men's original artist: *Dave Cockrum*! Plus: *Doc Doom*, the old *X-Men*, Arcade and Murderworld!

☐ **POWER MAN/IRON FIST #69** — Luke and the Fist on the trail of a mercenary gone mad!

☐ **MAN-THING #10** — A bizarre stranger wreaks havoc with the lives of Barbie Bannister, the Kales, John Daltry and... the Man-Thing!

☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR #230** — Final confrontation with the Ebon Seeker!

☐ **MARVEL SUPER ACTION #31** — (Reprints Avengers #70) Showdown with the Squadron Sinister and the Grandmaster! Plus: Marvel U.K.'s Nuth!

☐ **STAR WARS #47** — "Droid World!"

☐ **MASTER OF KUNG FU #100** — *Special double-sized 100th anniversary issue!* A mad plot hatched decades ago by Fu Manchu stretches across time to menace Shang Chi today!

☐ **PETER PARKER #34** — Spidey puts his life on the line to save the Smuggler from Magician Sessions!

☐ **DEFENDERS #80** — Enter: Count *Dracula*!

☐ **MARVEL SPOTLIGHT #12** — Spotlight on: *Captain Marvel*!

MARVEL MAGAZINES

☐ **CRAZY #73** — More than the greatest laughs the world has known with *The Best of Crazy*! Plus: The return of the Puppets in a make-it-yourself show called: *"Spider-Man TV Theatre with the Hulk!"*

☐ **THE HULK #26** — A rare glimpse into Banner's past, as of Greenskin rips it up in Times Square and at a rustic upstate ashram!

☐ **EPIC #5** — *Now bi-monthly.* Epic begins its second great year with contributions by the *Brothers Hildebrandt, Robert E. Howard, Roy Thomas, Jim Starlin, Rick Veitch, Charles Vess, Tim Conrad* and many more. Truly, the Visual Odyssey!

☐ **SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #53** — "Mist of Blood!"

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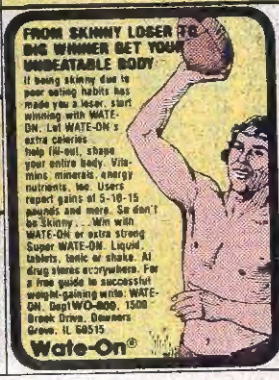

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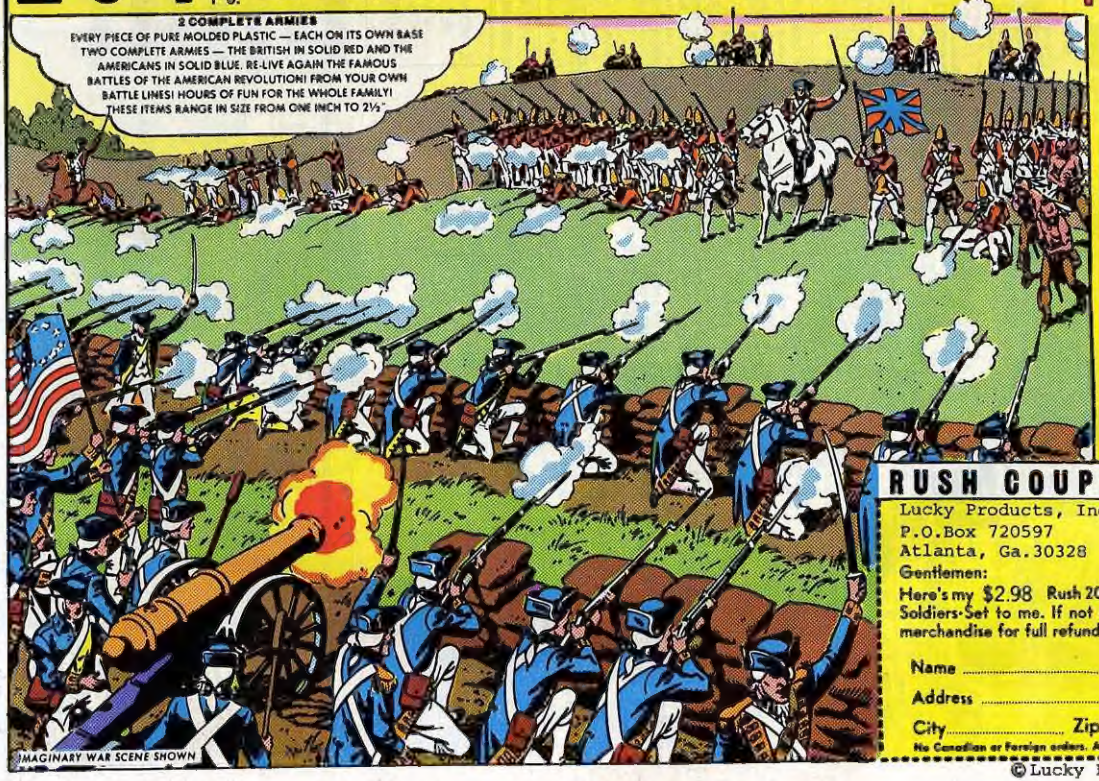
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